

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3504

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE ON RESOLUTION CALLING PLO
REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINE PEOPLE

1. LATE SEPT 27 ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK AGREED
ON PLO-DRAFTED RESOLUTION WHICH INVITES PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN GA
PALESTINE DEBATE, AND TERMS PLO "THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PALESTINE PEOPLE." CURRENT PLAN IS TO PUT RESOLUTION BEFORE
PLENARY AROUND OCT 14 OR 15, THEN POSTPONE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE
UNTIL AFTER RABAT CONFERENCE.

2. TEXT OF DRAFT RES FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

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CONSIDERING THAT THE PALESTINE PEOPLE IS THE PRINCIPAL

PARTY OT THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE,

INVITES THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE GA ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE. END QUOTE

3. EGYPTIAN MISSION MORNING SEPT 27 PASSED US TEXT OF RES INVITING PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN GA PALESTINE DEBATE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE. ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND PERMREPS WERE TO MEET IN AFTERNOON TO DECIDE ON FINAL LANGUAGE.

4. FOLLOWING LORENZ/KIMBALL AND KORN TELECONS, USUN RAISED MATTER URGENTLY WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH. BOTH AGREED RES WAS PERNICIOUS AND UNNECESSARY, FORCING EARLY DEBATE AND VOTE ON MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF PALESTINE ITEM. WE DECIDED TO TRY AND PERSUADE KEY ARAB DELS TO ABANDON RES AND PRESS FOR NORMAL PROCEDURE OF INVITING INTERESTED PARTIES, I.E., STATEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REQUEST THAT A PARTY PARTICIPATE, AND TOOK IT AND SO DECIDED IF HE HEARD NO OBJECTION.

5. WE SPOKE TO JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE PERMREPS WHILE BRITISH TALKED WITH EGYPTIAN MFA UNDER SECRETARY RIAD. FRENCH AGREED TAKE ON SYRIANS, BUT NEVER FOLLOWED THROUGH. LEBANESE AND EGYPTIANS UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND SAID THEY WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD. (IN THE EVENT, NEITHER APPARENTLY ARGUED AGAINST RES AT AFTERNOON MEETING.) JORDANIAN PERMREP SHARAF WAS RESIGNED TO HAVING A RES, AND FELT HE HAD ACHIEVED IMPORTANT VICTORY BY HAVING WORDS "SOLE AND LEGITIMATE" DELETED BEFORE "REPRESENTATIVE." WE SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLE "THE" HAD ALMOST EQUALLY EXCLUSIVE CONNOTATIONS BUT SHARAF CLEARLY FELT HE COULD DO NOTHING TO STOP PLO STEAMROLLER.

6. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS WE LEARNED THAT PLO'S INTENTION IS TO INTRODUCE DRAFT RES DIRECTLY FOLLOWING GENERAL DEBATE, THEN PUT OFF SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION UNTIL AFTER OCT 26 RABAT CONFERENCE -- AND PERHAPS UNTIL AFTER NOV 5 US CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS. THERE IS EVERY SIGN PLO WILL INSIST ON DEBATE IN PLENARY, THOUGH THEY ARE EVIDENTLY AWARE OF MANY UN MEMBERS' OPPOSITION TO BREAKING "STATES-ONLY" PRECEDENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PLENARY.

7. ONE ARAB DELEGATE CLOSE TO PLO (UAE ATTACHE HAMMAD) TOLD US THAT "IN ALL PROBABILITY" ARAFAT WILL HEAD PLO DELEGATION WHEN SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON PALESTINE TAKES PLACE. ACCORDING HAMMAD, QADDUMI WOULD COME IF ARAFAT DID NOT.
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